

Sterling Trails

Hog Hill Trail: (1) Moderate

Unique Features: The Hog Hill Trail provides both forest tranquility and scenic vistas of landscapes shaped by farming. In particular, the trail offers an insight into the unique operation of the former Kristoff Brothers Pig Farm.

Length and Difficulty: The standard route (red color) is hiked clockwise, is roughly 2.4 miles long and crosses the open field on return. The open field bypass route begins at A as a wide, grassy lane, but later to become a rather narrow forest path to B, from where the standard route is followed in the opposite direction (2.7 miles in total). The trail route is hilly and is rated moderately easy.

Trailhead Address: 12 Merrill Road, Sterling, adequate parking across the road;

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Allowed recreational activities are hiking, snow shoeing, hunting and cross-country skiing. Mountain biking, horseback riding motorized vehicles and pets are prohibited. Check with the DCR for more details.

Butterick Nature Trail: (2) Easy, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: The Butterick Nature Trail winds through a delightful, undulating and forested landscape and includes a side trail to the well-preserved Town Pound. The trail forms a loop, where the return path is situated in a little valley, providing the visitor with the sense of leaving the busy world behind; 0.5 miles, easy;

Length and Difficulty: The trail is slightly under 0.50 miles roundtrip, including a side trail to the Town Pound. The trail starts at the cement stairway, loops around and ends at the corner of the parking lot where tennis courts once were located. The trail is rated as easy.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Given the terrain and the steps, the Butterick Nature Trail is suitable for walking and nature observation. Dogs are allowed provided dog owners clean up after them.

Trailhead located behind the Butterick Building; dogs permitted, Trail brochure available.

Pegs Pond Trail: (3) Easy, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: a short walk through a mature pine woods, scenic walk around 1/3 acre pond;

Length and Difficulty: 0.33 miles, easy;

Trailhead located behind shed at corner of Sterling Senior Center parking lot, 36 Muddy Pond Road, Sterling. dogs permitted.

Stillwater Basin Trail (4) Moderate, Scenic

Unique Features: The trail offers a lovely view out over the Stillwater River and the opportunity to walk along the shoreline of a secluded arm of the Wachusett Reservoir. A section of the trail follows a hill crest, while other parts meander through younger forest along hilly trails and through majestic mature forest on a wide, level path in the vicinity of the turn-around point at Bean Road;

Length and Difficulty: 3.5 miles roundtrip, hike is rated moderate as there are a number of hills.

Trailhead location: 5 Griffin Road an overflow parking lot opposite playing fields.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing, and cross-country skiing. Fishing in the Basin is allowed with certain restrictions. Check with the DCR for more details. Mountain biking, horseback riding motorized vehicles and pets are prohibited. No bodily contact with the water is allowed. No dogs are permitted. There may be slash on the trail that has to be dodged.

Pine Hill Esker Trail (5) Moderate, Scenic

Unique Features: The trail starts at the site of a 19th century chair factory and joins a dirt road with stone walls in a mature forest, crosses a meadow and goes back into forested terrain. Unique for this trail are its eskers and kettle ponds and the views of a wetland pond where Rocky Brook flows into the Stillwater River. The trail is located on DCR watershed protection land.

Length and Difficulty: For clarity, the trail is divided into three sections: A, B and C, with one-way lengths of 0.65 mi., 0.45 mi. and 0.45 mi., respectively. The full hike, as described below, includes all three sections. The side loop on Sect. B is included on the return. The A+B+C trail length is 3.1 mi., while the two shorter versions, A+B or A+C, are both 2.2 mi. in length. The elevation varies between 428 ft and 540 ft, with several short steep hills. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead Location: 124 Beaman Road. Parking available at the Eight Point Sportsmen Club, 143-163 Beaman Road.

No dogs allowed.

Sterling Section of the Mass Central Rail Trail (6) Easy, Scenic

Unique Features: The trail is level and smooth (watch for bicycles and joggers) and is for the most part forested and offers a range of scenery, from woodland to wetland to vistas across West Waushacum Lake and The Quag. A half-mile loop foot trail, off the Sterling Section of the MCRT proper, takes you to the former location of the Waushacum Park Picnic Grounds.

Length and Difficulty: The round trip distance, including the loop trail, is 3.8 miles. Without the loop, the distance is 3.3 miles. The difficulty is rated easy.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: In keeping with DCR's mission of water supply and water quality protection, allowed activities include walking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-

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country skiing, open water fishing during designated DCR season and boating (only electric motors). Dogs, horses and all motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Trailhead Location: next door to 21 Gates Road, There is a dedicated parking lot. There is another trailhead at 17 Wauschacum Avenue.

Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road (7) Easy

Unique Features: The Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road is a pleasant and quiet trail on a wide old road. The trail initially passes wet and swampy areas, but after crossing the power line, the Gaylord Trail enters mature forest, and stone walls line this part of the trail. On older maps, the road is called North Nelson Road. The name change to Hardscrabble Road occurred only in 1971. What prompted this name change is, however, not known.

Length and Difficulty: The trail is only about 1.5 miles round-trip. From the trailhead at the lower end of Hardscrabble Road to the turn-around point at Upper North Row Road, there is about 150 feet of elevation gain. This old road trail is rated easy.

For the more ambitious hiker, there is a substantial extension to Fitch Basin, 1.9 miles round-trip. In addition to its length, this extension also has some quite steep hills. The Fitch Basin Extension is rated moderate.

Trailhead location: 10 Hardscrabble Road, parking on side of Hardscrabble Road

There is standing water on the Fitch Basin extension under the power lines that must be routed around in the spring.

Lynde Basins Trail (8) Moderate, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: This trail offers several interesting man-made and natural features. The trail passes by dams, gate houses and spillways, part of the former Clinton Water Works. In terms of natural scenery, it offers views to lakes and basins, crosses wetland areas and passes by the Wekepeke Brook with beaver activity.

Length and Difficulty: The round trip distance is 2.7 miles, and the trail has a number of short hills, some of which are moderately steep. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead location: 49-103 Heywood Road, parking in lot for 4 cars.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. Also mountain biking and horseback riding. All motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Allenwood Trail (9) Moderate, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: Scenic vistas towards farms and fields, later on views over Lynde Basins. Observe dams, gate houses and spillways as the visible remaining parts of the former Clinton Water Works. Crossing the Wekepeke Brook offers views out over beaver-created wetlands.

Length and Difficulty: The round-trip distance is 4.1 miles, and the trail has several short hills, some of which are moderately steep. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead location: 6 Heywood Road, parking in lot for 4 cars. Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as mountain biking and horseback riding. All motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Heywood Reservoir Trail (10) Moderate, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: The trail offer scenic vistas of the Heywood Reservoir, a lovely section along Heywood Brook and a short open meadow trail section near Sholan Farms.

Length and Difficulty: The Heywood Reservoir Trail is 2.67 miles in length. With the optional extension, the length is 3.23 mile. The elevation along the trail ranges from 592 ft to 772 ft. The difficulty is rated moderate.

Trailhead Location: Hapgood Road (abandoned road) at Upper North Row Road. Off-road parking for six cars.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities: Hiking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing are permitted. In season and with proper licenses, fishing and hunting are also allowed. Motorized vehicles are prohibited. There are areas of standing water that must be negotiated and a small stream that in high water could be difficult to cross.

Wauschacum Overlook Trail (11) Easy, Scenic, Dog-Friendly

Unique Features: Woodland Trail leading to a pleasant view of East Lake Wauschacum.

Length and Difficulty: 1/4 mile, rated easy.

Trailhead Location: 6 Tara Lane



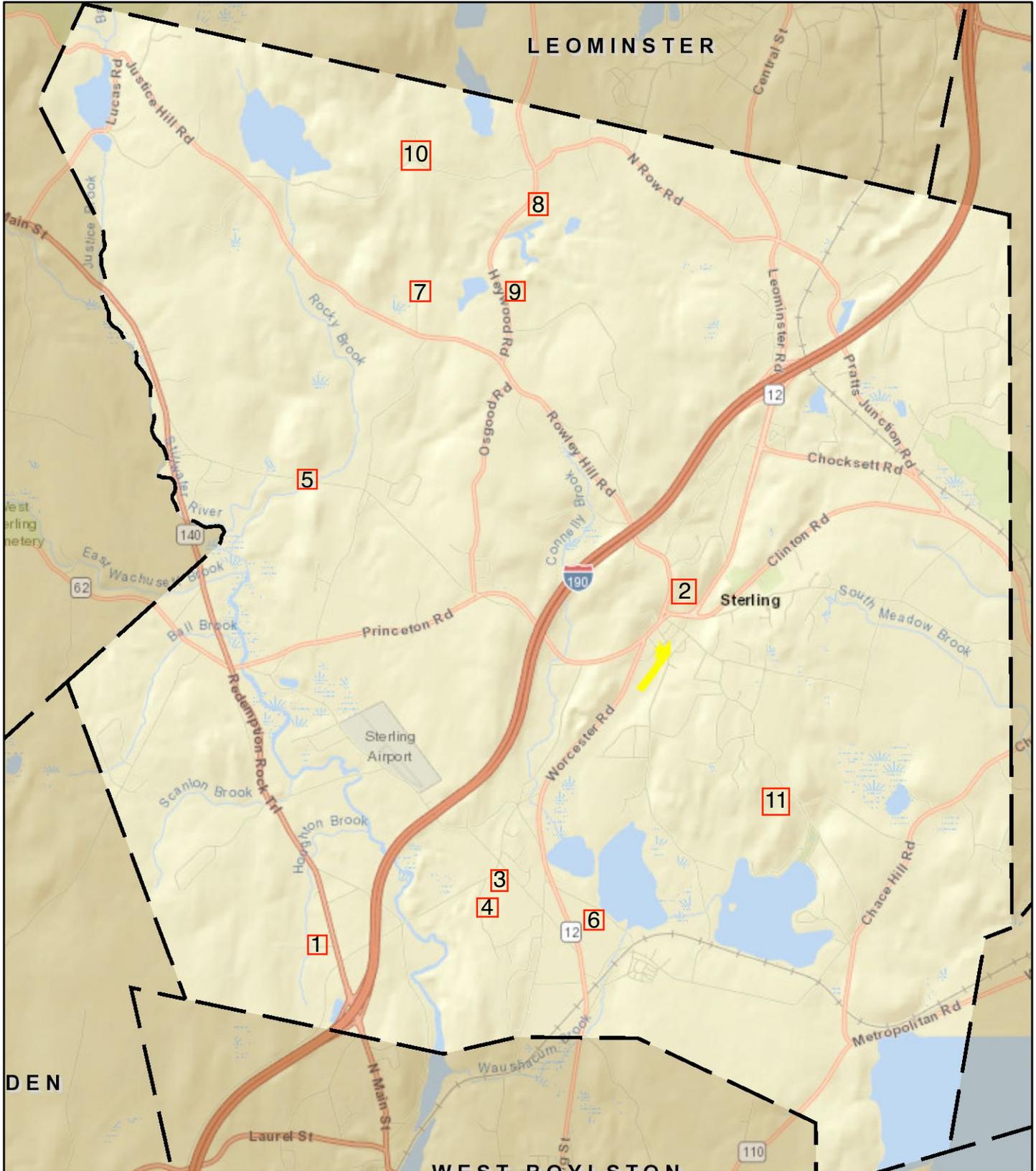
Sterling Trails

Sterling, MA

1 inch = 4448 Feet



April 9, 2020



Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.

Around 1924, Mary Ellen deeded the combined 13+ acres of land to the town as a recreational park for the enjoyment of the people of Sterling. Some years later, she agreed that part of the land could be used to provide the space for a future school, with the stipulation that the rest of the land remain as green space. On top of the hill was a pond for skating in the winter (located about midway between the trail and Meetinghouse Road, shortly after the top of the cement steps). For summer use, picnic areas and fireplace pits were popular. There were walking trails throughout the area which at the time was open meadow with few trees. It was a popular place to go on weekends. The original trail meandered from the cement steps up over the hill to the back parking lot, formerly the location of the tennis courts.

The Butterick School was built as a federal Works Project Administration project in 1934 or 1935 to provide employment for Sterling men during the Great Depression. Part of the hill behind the school was removed to make a level area to site the school. Due to the excavation, the cement and field stone steps and retaining wall were built to provide public access as part of the school building project. Park Street did not really exist – it was just a cart path - and the Goodnow and Waite houses and Baptist Church were located in front of the Butterick Building, with the Baptist church closest to First Church of Sterling.

According to Sterling old-timers, now long gone, there was a fairly deep cave used by the Indians halfway up the hill, but if it exists it is probably now hidden behind the cement steps.



The Sterling Town Pound is formed by a square of solidly built stone walls. It was likely in use for well over 100 years, up to the time of WWI.

A town pound (or enclosure) was part of early colonial history. It was high-walled and lockable structure mainly used for

holding stray sheep, pigs and cattle until they were claimed by the owners, after payment of a fine or levy.

In Massachusetts town pounds date back to 1635 and were in common use through the late 1800s. Early pounds were constructed of wood, but by 1740, due to extensive forest clearing, stone-walled pounds like the Sterling Town Pound began to replace wood pounds.

Flora and Fauna

Today the entire property is completely forested and the pond has dried up and vanished. Few evergreens are found on this property - most trees are white and red oaks, hickories and maples. Ash trees are also present though they may succumb to the Ash Pine borer in future years. With an open understory, low bush blueberries, viburnums and spring wildflowers



such as columbine and the diminutive Canada Mayflower grow. Near the Town Pound is evidence of the past can be seen in the form of

ornamental daylilies, barberry and vinca. In spring, the property is ringing with the sounds of warblers, chickadees and wrens. The chattering of Chimney Swifts is a summertime serenade in Sterling Center. Stone walls and downed trees provide shelter for small mammals like chipmunks, snakes and squirrels. In winter look for fox, raccoon, or coyote tracks.

Acknowledgments

The historical information contributed by Maryanne MacLeod is gratefully acknowledged.

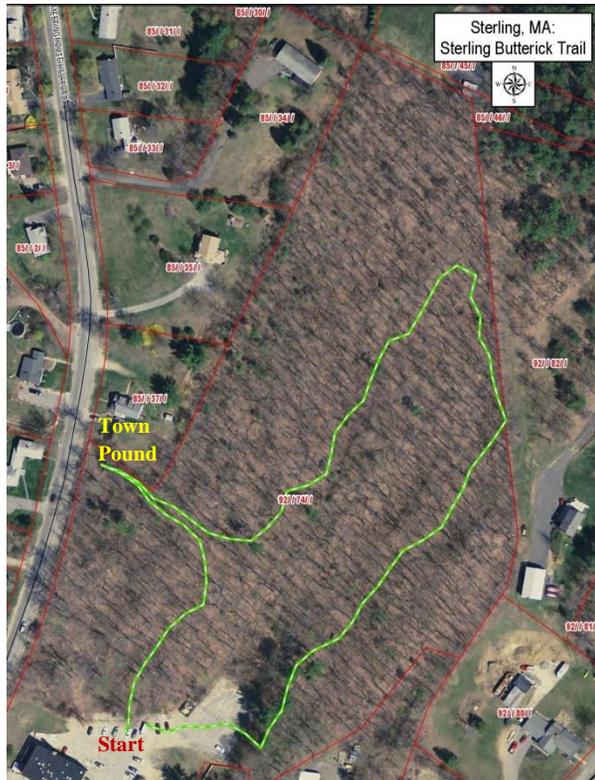
Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC)

OSIC was established in 2003 as a permanent town committee, to broaden awareness of and enhance public access to significant open space, cultural and recreational resources.

Butterick Nature Trail



Butterick Nature Trail



Concerning the map: Note that the side trail to the Town Pound starts and ends at the main trail at the same spot.

Parking and Trail Location



There is adequate parking near the trailhead, located behind the Butterick Building, but expect fewer available parking spaces during regular business hours.

The Butterick Nature Trail is located on a 13+ acre town-owned parcel off Park Street. A wooden trailhead sign at the foot of a fieldstone and cement stairway behind the Butterick Municipal Building marks the entrance to the trail and property.

Unique Features

The *Butterick Nature Trail* winds through a delightful, undulating and forested landscape and includes a side trail to the well-preserved Town Pound. The trail forms a loop, where the return path is situated in a little valley, providing the visitor with the sense of leaving the busy world behind.

Length and Difficulty

The trail is slightly under 0.50 miles roundtrip, including a side trail to the Town Pound. The trail starts at the cement stairway, loops around and ends at the corner of the parking lot where tennis courts once were located. The trail is rated as *easy*.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities

Given the terrain and the steps, the *Butterick Nature Trail* is suitable for walking and nature observation. Dogs are allowed provided dog owners clean up after them.

Description of Butterick Nature Trail

0.00 miles: The trail starts at the bottom of the cement steps.

0.06 miles: Just before stone wall, a side trail on the left leads to the Town Pound.

0.10 miles: The side trail arrives at the Town Pound

0.14 miles: Return to the main path by the same path.

0.20 miles: Note the stretch of mossy rock outcroppings on the right side of the trail.

0.26 miles: The trail turns to the right and proceeds gently downhill.

0.32 miles: The trail turns gently to the right and enters into a little valley.

0.39 miles: Stone-lined hole in the ground, to the right of the trail. Purpose and origin unknown at time of writing.

0.43 miles: The trail continues on a short downhill into the paved area where the tennis courts once were located.

0.47 miles: The trail ends at the starting point.



History of the Town Parcel

This is a 13+ acre parcel of land belonging to the Town of Sterling. It is remarkable that the town owns such a substantial centrally located property. This parcel was donated to the town by Mary Ellen Butterick (1853 – 1941), who had come into money from her father, Ebenezer Butterick. He invented the tissue paper dress patterns, which revolutionized home sewing (Butterick Pattern). Mary Ellen first purchased land from the families that had built the Goodnow House, said to be the first house built in the center of town, dating to the early to mid-18th century, and the Waite House, dating from a little later.

Adjacent, the Baptist Church had been built on land purchased from the Brooks family in about 1843, but the church closed its doors in 1914 and joined with the Evangelical Church, whose building is still located on Main Street. In 1924, the Baptist church, which had been empty for 10 years, was purchased by Mary Ellen Butterick, and the building was razed. The remnants of the Goodnow and Waite houses were likewise demolished.

Near the bridge where the Quag and the West Waushacum join was the location of the *Waushacum Park Picnic Grounds* built in 1879 by the Fitchburg and Worcester Railroad Company with a train stop at the entrance. The Park offered the visitor a wide range of amenities: dance hall, bowling alley, merry-go-round, baseball diamond, boat and canoe rental as well as hotel and cabin accommodations. The annual boat parade attracted more than 1000 people.

Visitors arriving by train from Worcester in Sterling Junction could take a short walk to the *Sterling Camp Ground*, from where the steam yacht *Sterling* ferried them across the West Waushacum Lake to the wharf at the Picnic Grounds.



The need for clean drinking water in Boston, however, brought an

end to the Picnic Grounds. In the early 1900s, both East and West Waushacum Lakes were acquired by the Metropolitan Waterworks (now DCR), but Waushacum Park continued to operate until 1915 when all the buildings were razed. The Loop Trail off the Rail Trail proper takes you to the site of Waushacum Park and is in fact a remnant of roads and paths of the former park.

Flora and Fauna

Three distinct habitats can be experienced on this trail: a wetland, oak-pine forest and the lake. The cattail swamp along the rail trail is home to wetland birds, muskrats and minks. Listen for the "konkaree" of the red-winged blackbirds in spring and summer and look for green and great blue herons fishing along the marshes and shores of the Quag and West Waushacum Pond. During spring and fall migration a variety of ducks can be seen on the open water. Loons visit this pond on occasion. In the area of red oaks and white pines, squirrels, rabbits and chipmunks skitter across the trail. Deer and bobcat have been seen in the area.

Lowbush blueberries are an attraction in summer. Buttonbush, water lilies and pickerel weed grow along the lake edges. Patches of vinca, an evergreen ornamental groundcover with a blue or white flower, are seen in spring and a patch of red pines with their



rounded cones are clues to previous building locations before the land was purchased by the state.

Wachusett Greenways

Wachusett Greenways' mission is connecting communities with trails and greenways. This all-volunteer nonprofit group and its partners began in 1995 to build and maintain trails. The Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) is WG's largest project, connecting 30 miles along a former railroad between Barre, Oakham, Rutland, Holden, West Boylston and Sterling. (www.wachusettgreenways.org)

Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Water Supply Protection

DCR/DWSP owns 21,028 acres of land in the Wachusett Reservoir Watershed and manages these watersheds primarily for water quality protection, drinking water supply, and environmental resource protection purposes. Public access, therefore, is carefully regulated and controlled to protect over 2 million people's source of drinking water. Visit www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-central/wachusett-reservoir.html for more details.

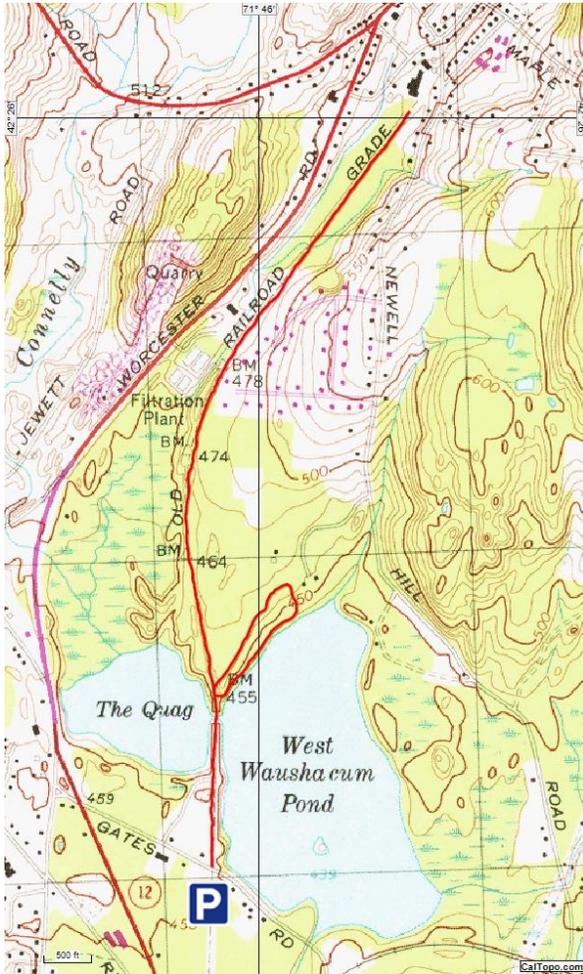
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STERLING SECTION



Sterling Section of Mass Central Rail Trail



As the trail name implies, this trail is part of the *Mass Central Rail Trail* (MCRT), constructed and maintained by *Wachusett Greenways*. The property is owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Division of Watershed Supply Protection.

Unique Features

The trail is level and smooth (watch for bicycles and joggers) and is for the most part forested and offers a range of scenery, from woodland to wetland to vistas across West Waushacum Lake and The Quag. A half-mile loop foot trail, off the Sterling Section of the MCRT proper, takes you to the former location of the *Waushacum Park Picnic Grounds*.



Length and Difficulty

The round trip distance, including the loop trail, is 3.8 miles. Without the loop, the distance is 3.3 miles. The difficulty is rated *easy*.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities

In keeping with DCR's mission of water supply and water quality protection, allowed activities include walking, biking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, open water fishing during designated DCR season and boating (only electric motors). Dogs, horses and all motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Trail Description from former Sterling Cider Mill

0.00 miles: Start of trail is at the yellow post at the south end of the parking area. First part of the trail (about 1/3 of a mile) cuts through a cattail marsh where beaver activities can often be seen.

- 0.33 miles:** Short bridge over small stream.
- 0.38 miles:** Wetland changes to oak-pine forest.
- 0.50 miles;** DPW buildings can be seen on the right
- 0.73 miles:** Side trail to the right.
- 1.27 miles:** Location of the train stop on the Fitchburg and Worcester Railroad Line.
- 1.29 miles:** Loop trail leaves the Sterling Section of the MCRT to the left (black steel bench is a landmark) and following the shoreline of West Waushacum Lake.
- 1.50 miles:** The trail turns left along a slight rise and continues directly away from West Waushacum Lake turning right by a gate to houses along Trebor Lane to parallel the outbound route along the lake shoreline.
- 1.84 miles:** The side trail rejoins the Sterling Section of the MCRT at the location of the train stop.
- 1.90 miles:** Trail crosses bridge between West Waushacum Lake and the Quag, with great views on both sides. After that, the trail follows a causeway, built by the Fitchburg and Worcester Railroad Line
- 2.00 miles:** End of causeway
- 2.17 miles:** Trail kiosk near Gates Road, which is the southern end of Sterling Section of the MCRT
- 2.48 miles:** Crossing the bridge on the return
- 3.82 miles:** Trail returns to yellow post at the northern terminus.

History of the Sterling Rail Trail Area

The structure that today houses an antiques store and other small businesses was originally the Sterling Cider Mill. Founded in 1906 by Walter Hildick Sr., it took advantage of Sterling's apple orchards and of the direct access to railroad transport. During its heyday, the mill produced 2 million gallons of apple cider, apple juice and cider vinegar. In 1980s the cider mill halted its



pressing process due to environmental concerns, and in 1988 it finally closed down and moved its operation to Pennsylvania.

Parking, Trail Name Origin and Trail Location

There are two trailheads with ample parking: (1) At *Oh My Gosh Antiques* (the former Sterling Cider Mill), which can be reached by taking Waushacum Avenue from Main St., Sterling (Rt. 12) and turning right after crossing School St. (2) At Gates Road, about ¼ mile from its intersection with Rt. 12.

0.72 miles: Bridge over spillway, possibly the location of the former gate house. After this point, the trail becomes narrow and somewhat overgrown; watch out for poison ivy.

0.83 miles: Trail leaves the Fitch Basin, which defines our turn-around point. Ahead is a yellow gate, installed by the Town of Clinton, to prevent vehicular access from Heywood Road.

0.94 miles: Bridge over spillway.

0.95 miles: Trail leaves Fitch Basin.

1.12 miles: Turn right at trail junction, to continue on the outbound route.

1.18 miles: Outbound trail comes in from the left, providing the option to choose this shorter route back. The trail description follows a slightly longer route (by ¼ mile), by continuing straight ahead.

1.28 miles: Observe small trail to the right.

1.45 miles: Trail leaves the forest, meets the Power Line Trail. Make a left turn to continue a long uphill.

1.60 miles: Observe junction with outbound trail; trail begins a steep downhill.

1.77 miles: Back to large wet area. Then a moderately steep uphill.

1.90 miles: End of Fitch Basin Extension.

Flora and Fauna

A shallow pond and wetland is found at the beginning of the south trailhead of Hardscrabble Road trail. Note the pointed stumps, evidence of beaver activity in years past. Dead trees are a place to look or listen for woodpeckers and nuthatches questing for grubs and insects. In late summer, meadowsweet shrubs in the wet areas are covered with white blooms lending a light fragrance to the air. Watch for green, pickerel or leopard frogs around the water's edge and spot aquatic insects skimming across the water.

As you continue to stroll up the road, note the stone walls (and some poison ivy patches) lining the trail. Hardwood trees such as red and white oak, red maple, hickory, and even a few American chestnut sprouts are common. Smaller tree species such as sassafras (the mitten tree) and striped maple are part of the mix with a few patches of mountain laurels here and there.

In the damper areas or humid days, you may spy a red eft crawling across the way or a slug leaving its silvery trail on the leaf litter.



Look carefully at openings in the stone walls where scat (droppings) from foxes, deer, coyotes or raccoons might be seen. A pile of

acorn shells or nibbled pine cones indicate that gray or red squirrels were feasting.

Check the young forest habitat opening on the right on the steeper part of the trail just before reaching the power line cut. Blue-winged Warblers with their "Bee Buzz" call and Eastern Towhees singing "Drink your tea!" can be heard here and on the shrubs under the power lines.

Beyond the power line, note the stands of tall white pines. These sun-loving trees sprouted in what were once abandoned fields. Note that the understory of young trees is hardwoods, which will be the next stage of forest succession when the pines eventually die. Hay-scented ferns and interrupted ferns line the sides of the old roadway (beware of some poison ivy), while mosses and lichens cover the stone walls. In winter it is easy to spot tracks of deer, coyotes and bobcat crossing gaps in the walls.

Acknowledgments

The *Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road* was established in collaboration with the Sterling Conservation Commission, whose support is gratefully acknowledged.

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GAYLORD TRAIL AT HARDSCRABBLE ROAD



Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road

Unique Features

The Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road is a pleasant and quiet trail on a wide old road. The trail initially passes wet and swampy areas, but after crossing the power line, the Gaylord Trail enters mature forest, and stone walls line this part of the trail.

On older maps, the road is called North Nelson Road. The name change to Hardscrabble Road occurred only in 1971. What prompted this name change is, however, not known.

Length and Difficulty

The trail is only about 1.5 miles round-trip. From the trailhead at the lower end of Hardscrabble Road to the turn-around point at Upper North Row Road, there is about 150 feet of elevation gain. This old road trail is rated *easy*.

For the more ambitious

hiker, there is a substantial extension to Fitch Basin, 1.9 miles round-trip. In addition to its length, this extension also has some quite steep hills. The Fitch Basin Extension is rated *moderate*.

Why Gaylord Trail?

Jack Gaylord was born and raised in Sterling and owned the property at the trailhead. After serving in the US Marine Corps, he joined the MA State Police as an undercover narcotics agent. He spent his retirement at his Hardscrabble Road Farm, breeding Yorkshire, Hampshire and Landrace pigs. He worked with the Sterling Conservation Commission, agreeing to a land swap as well as a land sale to the town. He passed away in September, 2014.

Allowed and Prohibited Trail Activities

Passive recreational activities allowed on the trail: Hiking, hunting, nature observation, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing. Motorized vehicles are prohibited. Dogs are allowed; for the health of other pets, wildlife and people, please pick up after your pet.

Description of Gaylord Trail at Hardscrabble Road

0.00 miles: The beginning of the dirt road defines the trail head. The first part of the trail passes bog and swamp to the left (i.e. west) and is often wet. Then the trail continues gently uphill.

0.24 miles: Intersection with power lines. The Fitch Basin trail extension (described below) starts here.

0.27 miles: Trail continues gently uphill.

0.43 miles: Stone-lined cellar hole or remnant of a foundation.

0.58 miles: Trail to the right, crossing the stone wall, will reach Upper North Row Road (in about ¼ mile) and continue on the other side of the road.

0.70 miles: Road off to the left, onto private property.

0.74 miles: Trail has reached Upper North Row Road, defining the turn-around point.

Fitch Basin Trail Extension

0.00 miles: At the intersection with power lines, turn right and continue moderately steeply downhill. Trail is somewhat rocky and uneven.

0.12 miles: Trail crosses a major wet area; created by a small stream feeding into the Fitch Basin. The wet area is passable to the left, on a grassy, somewhat uneven berm. Trekking poles can be helpful here.

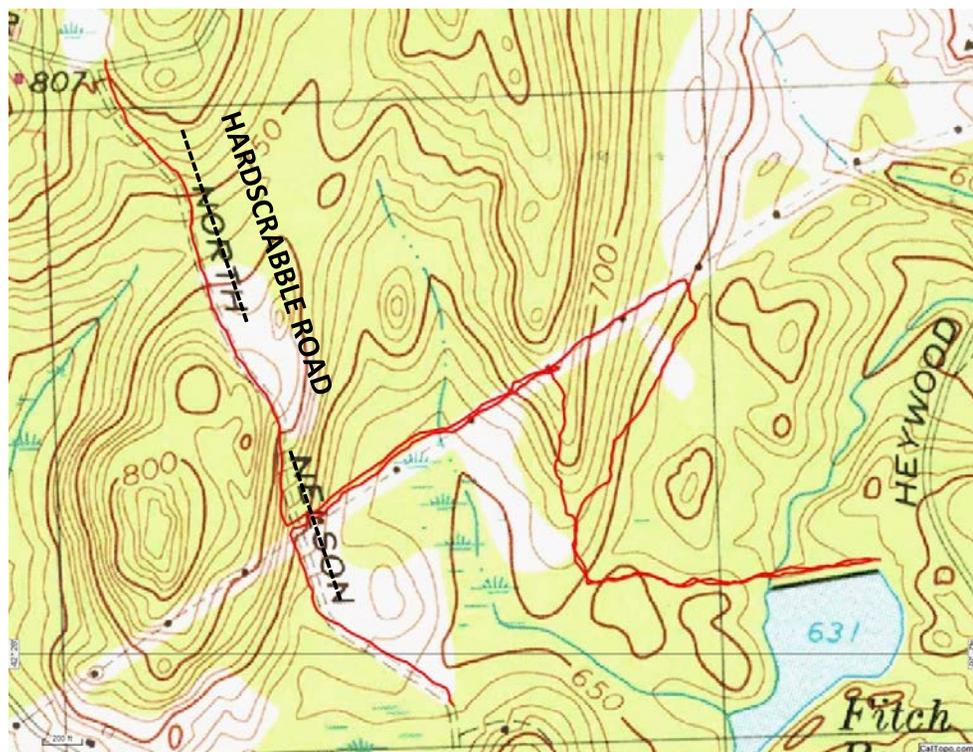
0.23 miles: Trail begins a moderately steep uphill

0.30 miles: Shortly after reaching the crest of the hill, turn sharply right onto an initially indistinct trail that continues gently downhill into the woods.

0.47 miles: Trail makes a slight left turn and crosses a stone wall. A few steps further, turn right onto a wider trail.

0.53 miles: Trail junction; follow trail to the left.

0.70 miles: Trail reaches the Fitch Basin; observe side trail from the right. While this is a possible turn-around point, the trail description will continue to the point where the trail leaves the Fitch Basin.



Parking and Trail Location

The *Gaylord Trail* is accessed via Hardscrabble Road from Rowley Hill Road. The trailhead is located where the asphalt ends and the gravel road begins. As of fall 2017, there is still only limited parking on the shoulders of the paved part of Hardscrabble Road.

Land along and adjacent to this trail and the Fitch Basin Extension is owned by the Town of Sterling, Sterling Land Trust, Town of Clinton, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and private landowners.